

PLECTRANTHUS PLANT NAMED 'CAPE ANGELS PURPLE'

Latin name of genus and species of the plant claimed:

Plectranthus hybridus

Variety denomination:

5 Cape Angels Purple

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Plectranthus* plant, botanically known as *Plectranthus hybridus* (Family Lamiaceae), hereinafter referred to by the name 'Cape Angels Purple'.

10 The new *Plectranthus*, 'Cape Angels Purple', is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor, Gert Johannes Brits, in Stellenbosch, Republic of South Africa. The objective of the breeding program is to improve current blue market cultivar 'Edelbau' by developing more compact growth habit, larger flowers and improved vigor. The new
15 *Plectranthus* originated from a hybrid backcross by the Inventor between a proprietary selection of *Plectranthus saccatus* named 'F1' (unpatented) and a proprietary selection of unnamed *Plectranthus hilliardiae* (unpatented). The new cultivar has been produced only by vegetative propagation (cuttings). The Inventor selected the new *Plectranthus* cultivar from the progeny of the

above cross in 2001 on the basis of its compact growth habit, larger flowers and increased vigor.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken and propagated in 1999-2001, has shown that each of the progenies exhibit 5 characteristics identical to the original plant. These characteristics have been shown to come true to form through many generations of asexual propagation under commercial production conditions in Nr. Lyndelse, Fyn, Denmark. The present invention has been tested under lighted greenhouse conditions and for keeping quality in a consumer environment, but may 10 differ in various aspects if grown under different conditions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar 'Cape Angels Purple' have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, light 15 intensity, day length, and fertility level without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Cape Angels Purple'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Cape Angels Purple' as a new 20 and distinct cultivar:

1. Large blue flowers;

2. Compact and freely branching plant habit;

3. Shorter production time;

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4. Dense, colorful foliage; and

5. Sexual sterility.

Side-by-side comparisons between the instant plant and other similar *Plectranthus* were conducted by the Inventor. Plants of 'Cape Angels 10 Purple' differ from other similar *Plectranthus* cultivars in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of 'Cape Angels Purple' have longer, clear bright blue flowers than plants of similar *Plectranthus* cultivars.

15 2. Plants of 'Cape Angels Purple' have better branching growth habit and denser, more colorful foliage than plants of similar *Plectranthus* cultivars.

3. Plants of 'Cape Angels Purple' have a faster growth rate than plants of similar *Plectranthus* cultivars.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying photographic drawings illustrate the overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in 5 the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which more accurately describe the actual colors of 'Cape Angels Purple'.

The first photographic drawing shows a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Cape Angels Purple' as grown in 12 cm pots. The 10 second photographic drawing shows a close-up view of typical flowering racemes of 'Cape Angels Purple'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart, 4th edition. Plants were grown 15 under greenhouse conditions. The plants described were between 12 and 15 weeks old after cutting, as grown in 12 cm pots.

Parentage: Hybrid backcross between proprietary selection of *Plectranthus saccatus* named 'F1' (unpatented) and unnamed *Plectranthus hilliardiae* (unpatented).

20 Propagation:

Type cutting. Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Plant description:

5 Form: Perennial, herbaceous plant with upright, branched plant form.

Crop time: Flowering induced by short day treatment in 12 cm pots for 4 weeks under greenhouse conditions.

Plant height (soil level to top of plant plane): About 35 cm.

10 Plant spread: About 35 cm

Stem: Upright, stiff, square, branching from base, RHS 136 B (dark green)

Vigor: Vigorous growth rate

Foliage description: Leaves single, ovate, serrate. Arrangement: opposite, decussate. Length: 8 cm. Width: 6 cm. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Cuneate.
15 Texture: adaxial: rough (hispid), shiny; abaxial: smooth, velvety. Venation: brochidodromus, prominent, dark purple, N79 B. Color, ventral side: Young foliage, upper and lower surfaces: RHS 136 B, green. Mature foliage, upper and lower surfaces: RHS 139 A. Color, dorsal side: Young foliage, RHS 20 139 B. Mature foliage: RHS 138 B.

Petiole: 3 cm in length, hispid texture, N 79 B

Flower description:

Flower arrangement: Raceme of panicles.

Flower shape: Irregular labiate, flat tubular with 4 lips of different size and shape.

5 **Flower longevity on the plant:** Longevity of individual flowers is highly dependent on temperature and light conditions.

Number of flowers per inflorescence: 25-30; 80-90 per stem; up to 200 per plant.

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Inflorescence size: Depth: 35 mm; Vertical diameter: 25 mm; horizontal diameter: 15 mm.

15 **Buds:** Length: Up to 25 mm before antithesis; height: 5 mm; width: 1 mm; tubular with angular "head", N89 B; base N82B to white.

Petals: 5 fused to basal, flat tubular corolla. Lips spotted, velvety texture.

Top lip (2 fused) to inverted cordate form, revolute upright, 15 mm. Bottom lip involute, almost cup-shaped, 7 mm. Wing lips small, rounded, 4 mm.

20 **Color:** ventral side of lips: light purple, N82D; dark purple spots: N79A; throat: violet, RHS 84 D; dorsal side: blue, RHS 90 C.

Calyx: 5 pointed lobes fused at base; veins: dark purple, N79A; ground tissue: green, RHS 136 C.

Reproductive Organs:

5 Stamen: 4 monodelphous, lower part fused to corolla tube.

Anther: Kidney-shaped, purple, N79B

Pistil: Lower part fused to corolla tube; free part 5 mm, curling upward with cleft stigma, purple, N79B

Ovary: N144A, yellow-green

10 Seed: 5 seeds per capsule. Immature seeds: RHS 150 B (light yellow-green)

Fragrance: None

Weather tolerance: Plants of the new *Plectranthus* have exhibited good tolerance to drought, rain and wind, low temperature resistant to 5C.